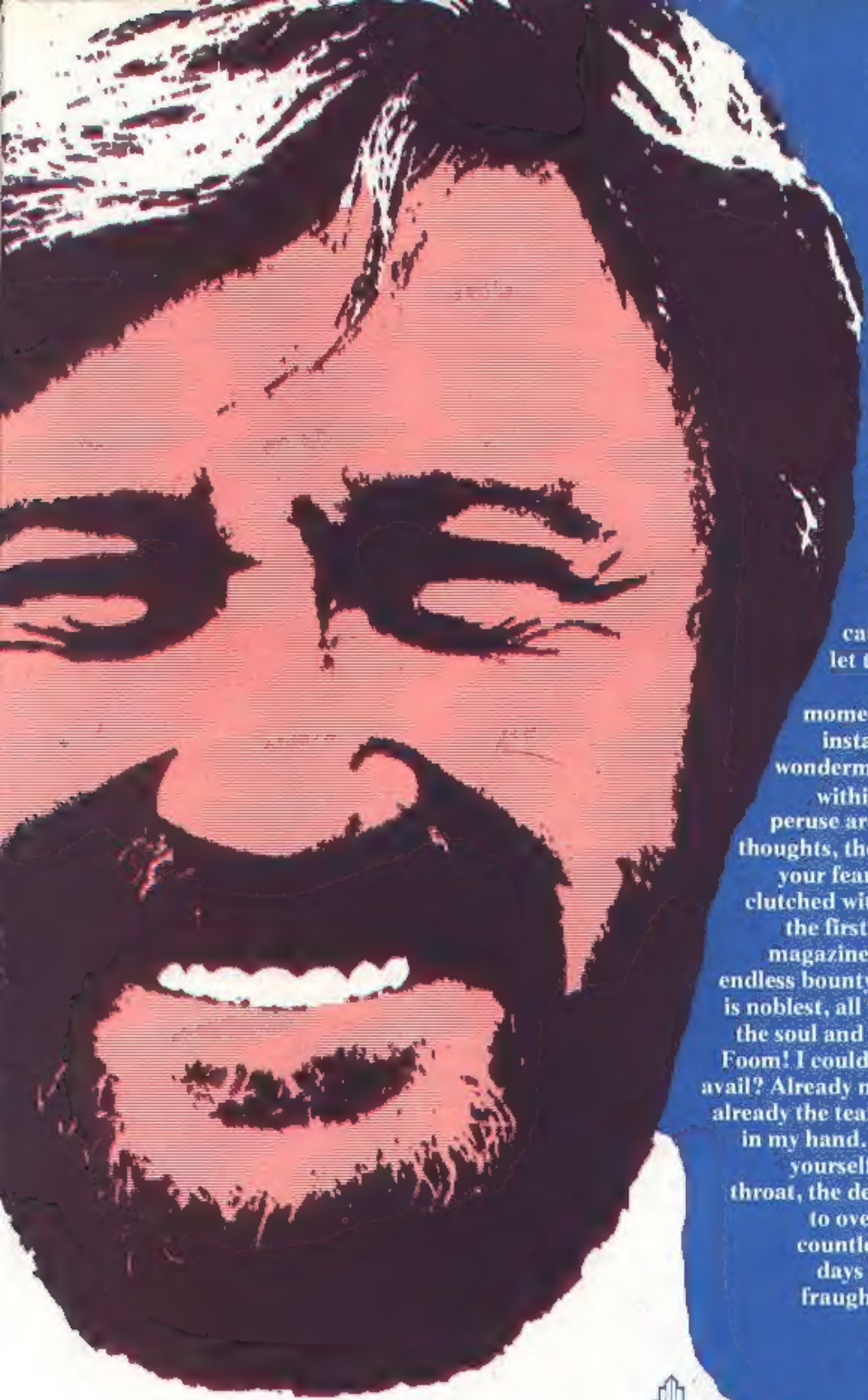

Greetings, O Seeker of Truth thou hast found thy true Nirvana! Here in the hallowed circle thou art truly amongst thy peers —thou art truly welcome —thou art truly safe and secure within the fabled, far-flung Fellowship of Foom! From this moment on you are no longer a lonely wanderer on the twisting treadmill of life. Ever at your side stand the rapturous ranks of Foomdom Assembled. Your days have found new meaning; your nights have been enriched; your world has gained new lustre. Thrice blessed are you, for you have embraced the cause of Foom forever—now let the angel chorus sing! And yet, here in this miniscule moment of eternity, [O, glorious instant!] we can but hint at the wonderment that awaits you. Here, within the pages you so proudly peruse are contained the words and thoughts, the hopes and aspirations of your fearless fellow Foomers. Here, clutched within your frantic fingers, is the first of many such magnificent magazines which you'll receive—an endless bounty of all that is best, all that is noblest, all that most truly symbolizes the soul and the spirit of we who follow Foom! I could go on and on, but to what avail? Already my limpid eyes grow misty; already the tear-stained page turns soggy in my hand. Only a fellow Foomer like yourself can sense the lump in my throat, the deep emotion that threatens to overwhelm me. For, of all the countless words I have penned in days of yore, none have been so fraught with meaning, so tinged with drama, so garnished with glory as these which now you read—

WELCOME TO FOOM

—the best is yet to be!

Excelsior!

Stan Lee

E PLURIBUS MARVEL

FOOM

NUFF SAID

FIRST ISSUE - SPRING 1973

ONCE UPON A FOOM!

It began with a casual visit.

I dropped in at the Marvel bullpen to rap with Stan Lee about the current comic scene when the subject came up. Stan mentioned that he was thinking seriously about initiating a new Marvel Comics club. It had occurred to him, he revealed, at one of his college lecture engagements.

"FOOM," he had told them," is the name of the new organization."

"FOOM? I asked!

"Friends Of Ol' Marvel," he explained!

It sounded like something only Marvel could do—something so outrageous it had to work! Suddenly, at a lightning pace, we began exchanging ideas about the new club: it would be Marvel-based, not leased out like the previous one. Projects would be developed exclusively for the Marvel fan—colorful, exciting, and informative projects like none that had ever come before. In the heat of enthusiasm, I volunteered my services as a designer, writer and comic historian to the cause. We shook hands on it.

Back at the drawing board, following Stan's suggestions, I began developing a blue print for the birth of the new club. As comic fans ourselves, we felt that if we could produce a package that excited us, you'd dig it too. I recalled the days of radio, with all the clubs and superpremiums that were perpetually offered over the air. Could we generate the same kind of excitement today, I wondered . . . ?

The answer was an emphatic—YES!

With the entire Marvel Age to work with, Stan and I (and the gang in the bullpen who had since been infected with the tempestous FOOM bug) began collaborating on the making of a major Marvel movement. After a dozen conferences and a score of phone calls, the membership kit was launched along with a long term program designed to hit the bulls-eye of Marvel's fabulous fan following.

It would be the biggest development yet in the Marvel Age of Comics, and you, fellow Foomer, would be part of it. Some of the results of our efforts rest in your hands at this very moment—but the best part is yet to come.

While FOOM is a core around which Marveldom Assembled the world over can rally, it is much more. The Friends Of Ol' Marvel will be part of the funtastic Marvel Age, with a thousand and one ways to participate in the happenings of the hottest bunch of heroes in comic history.

That's right, gang—you and the Far-Flung Fellowship of FOOM will have a hand in shaping the future of the Comic Marvel Age.

You've proven over the years your loyalty, sincerity, and dedication—and now stand united under the furled flag of FOOM. To reciprocate the faith you've shown, we've come up with an unprecedented plan to get you to participate in the world of FOOM.

All during the Marvel Age, we've received countless suggestions about our stories and characters. So beginning now, with the inception of FOOM, we are proud to herald the official opening of a new project—one in which *you* create a stunning super hero or villain in the grand tradition of Marvel.

Here's the pay-off: The winning entry (to be selected by Ol' Smilin' Stan himself) will become a super guest-star featured in one of Marvel's top hero mags—with you, the creator, given full credit in the splash page listings and a page of the original art. In addition, entries will be featured in *FOOM MAGAZINE* for all Marveldom to see. So dig out your pencils and pens, gang, and put forth your best effort in the name of FOOM. Send your submissions on a piece of white writing paper to: Marvel Character Contest, Box 1827, New York City 10022. Include your name, address, and zip on the front of each drawing so we'll know who did what. All entries become the property of Marvel Comics Group. Don't delay—start today!

I know you're anxious to get into the magazine, but let me fill you in quickly on some of the highpoints. We thought it would be appropriate to build this first issue around Marvel's *parvenu* success, The Fantastic Four. For openers, we present a biographical rundown of the men behind the FF legend. You'll find Ed Noonchester's analysis of the group's origin adventure perceptive and thought provoking. A definitive FF checklist follows, giving collectors all the data required to complete their own files. (By the way, we plan to feature one of Marvel's swinging super stars in every Foom-tastic issue.)

A big illustrated news section gives Marvel's mighty membership the lowdown on upcoming highjinks. We think our fellow Foom-Men deserve an advance look into the top secret files of their favorites. As an addtional feature, we've included a folio of flamboyant happenings in the world of fanzines.

As a special plus, we're presenting a plethora of puzzles for you to ponder. First, a GIANT CROSSWORD that reads like a comic history book—watch it, some of the clues are so devious, Doc Doom himself could have created 'em. (Do this one in less than a half hour, and you beat Smiley at it!)

Next on tap is a mind-boggling WORD SEARCH riddled with Marvelous words. Another brain-teaser follows—a WORD PYRAMID puzzle. Give yourself a No-Prize if you can solve all of them without looking up the answers on page 31.

Those of you who enjoy drawing mustaches on billboards will have the opportunity to exercise your talent on our DO-IT-YOURSELF DISGUISE PAGE. Our SPECIAL BONUS of the issue lies in the centerfold of the magazine—the first of a series of Marvel adventure games designed to test your skill and luck. MOVING TARGET is a fast-paced, action-packed thriller guaranteed to bring out the superhero in you.

While we're thinking about it, here's another twist to the legend of FOOM. As the club began to shape up, the word FOOM itself inspired a series of silly sayings that kept the bullpen chuckling for days. We call 'em FABULOUS FOOMIES—here's an example: Foom the bell tolls! Or, Play it again, Foom! Make a movie title: "Foom Here to Eternity!" Make a song: "What Kind of Foom Am I!" Use your ingenuity and hold a Foomie contest with a friend. Send the best ones to us and we'll print 'em right here in the magazine.

By the way, did you know our leader, Ol' Smilin' Stan, has been touring the country's colleges and universities, discussing the Marvel Age of Comics and characters, and the whole media in general? Though we try to keep him in the bullpen as much as possible, he somehow finds time to get away and spellbind audiences with an accounting of how it all began. So, if he's lecturing somewhere near you, give yourself a treat and attend—and tell him you're one of the Far-Flung-Fellowship of Foom.

Coming up in the months ahead, a super panorama of profound projects and picturesque pastimes plus a portentous portfolio of artwork and articles in the mighty Marvel manner. Before I close, let me point out another bonus available to the Fellowship of Foom. Most products advertised in the magazine are specially discounted to club members and will always be offered first in these pages.

Next issue, in addition to a host of exciting premiums, the official Marvel Collector's Coin/Medallion will be offered to FOOM members only (who get first chance to grabthe lowest mint numbers).

Foom has been founded, faithful one—and we're glad you're one of us! Be sure to write and let us know if you get as big a kick out of the club as we did putting it together for you—remember, its *your* club, and we'll need your help to make it work. So hang loose, hero, until our next big issue comes packed with prizes and surprises. Until next time then, take care.

STERANKO

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STAN LEE

editor
STERANKO

associate editor
KEN BRUZENAK

consulting editor
ROY THOMAS

staff
ED NOONCHESTER
JOEL THINGVALL
GARY BROWN
and all the artists and writers in the whole blushin' bullpen.

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Remember when we hinted about giving you the run-down on the madmen that staff the mighty Marvel offices? Since then, you've written, pleaded, demanded, and threatened us —but we decided to do it anyway! So, it's our pleasure to have you meet a bunch of blushin' bullpenners each issue of FOOM Magazine. We think they're the greatest guys in the business—now if only they'd let us pay 'em off in comic books instead of money!

STAN LEE, the man who was editor, head writer and art director for the entire Marvel Comics Group, began his climb to success at the age of fifteen. At that time, he won the Herald Tribune's Biggest-News-of-the-Week essay contest 3 weeks in a row.

In 1939, he took a job at Timely Comics as assistant editor and copy-writer, and was soon promoted to executive editor. Since that time, he has written no less than two comic magazines per week for over thirty years, establishing a record of the most published work by a single writer since man invented the alphabet.

After serving in the U.S. Signal Corps (where he was classified as a "playwrite"), Stan returned to his former position as a comic editor. But it wasn't until 1960 that he created the Marvel Age of Comics with a new revolutionary concept that injected all-too-human personalities into the otherwise common clay of comic super heroes. Lee's technique, built upon realism and relevancy, was responsible for the comic explosion of the 60's. Lee and Marvel have since become synonymous.

In 1970, Stan organized and was elected the first president of ACBA, the Academy of Comic Book Arts. Over the past few years, he has appeared as a guest lecturer at colleges and universities throughout the United States and Canada. Last year, Stan added yet another facet to his career as he was named publisher of the mighty Marvel Comics Group. 'Nuff said!

The man currently drawing the galaxy-spanning adventures of the Fantastic Four is, as every true Foomer knows, big JOHN BUSCEMA. Truly one of the greats of our time, Buscema has lent his talent to such Marvelous strips as Thor, The Hulk, the Sub-Mariner, The Avengers, Spiderman and the magnificent Silver Surfer.

Buscema was born on December 11, 1927 in Brooklyn, New York, and went to the Manhattan High School of Music and Art. In 1947, he went to Pratt Institute, studying at night for about a year. Afterward, he took Saturday morning art classes at the Brooklyn Museum until Stan Lee gave him his first job, drawing crime and romance books in April 1948.

He continued at Timely (Marvel's publishing name in the 40's) for several years, then switched to several other companies where he drew western, crime, and a series of movie-adaptation comics.

From 1953 to 1967 Buscema's magic pencil occupied with advertising work and he found himself sharing office space with top name artists like Bob Peak and Bob McGinnis. During this period, Buscema also managed to paint a score of paperback book covers.

July, 1967 saw him again back at Marvel, beginning on Nick Fury, Agent of Shield. Currently, he is pencilling Conan, laying out the FF and Thor, and adding an increasing number of successes to his impressive list of accomplishments.

ROY THOMAS, a familiar name to all Marvel readers, was one of the first comic fans to turn professional writer. Starting his career in 1965, Roy has since been promoted to the position of editor of the entire Marvel Comics Group.

Born on November 22, 1940, in Jackson, Missouri, Roy began learning his trade by reading and collecting every comic he could lay his hands on. After graduating from Jackson High School, he attended Southeast Missouri State College, and later began teaching English in Arnold, Missouri (where he continued to read comics).

After submitting a number of scripts to various comic companies, Roy finally had his first story published by Marvel in the summer of 1965, a Millie The Model tale. An Iron Man yarn in *Tales of Suspense* 73 followed, and soon Sgt. Fury, The Avengers, The X-Men and Dr. Strange bore the credit–Roy Thomas, author. As the years unfolded, Roy worked his way up to the post of assistant editor. Finally in March 1972, while writing Conan, The Fantastic Four and several others, Roy became the editor of the world's greatest comics group–Marvel.

JOE SINNOTT has the distinction of inking more issues of the *Fantastic Four* than anybody in comics. His bold, clean linear style added an extra measure of excitement to the "World's Greatest Comic" and became *the* style of the sixties.

Born on October 16, 1926, Joe lived in Saugerties, New York for 12 years until moving to a small farm nearby. He was active in sports in high school and worked in a lime quarry after graduation. From 1944 to 1946, Joe served in the Navy with the Seabees and afterward, attended the Cartoonists and Illustrator's School. While he was still there, Joe freelanced for several publishers including Marvel, where he drew features such as Red Warrior and Kent Blake.

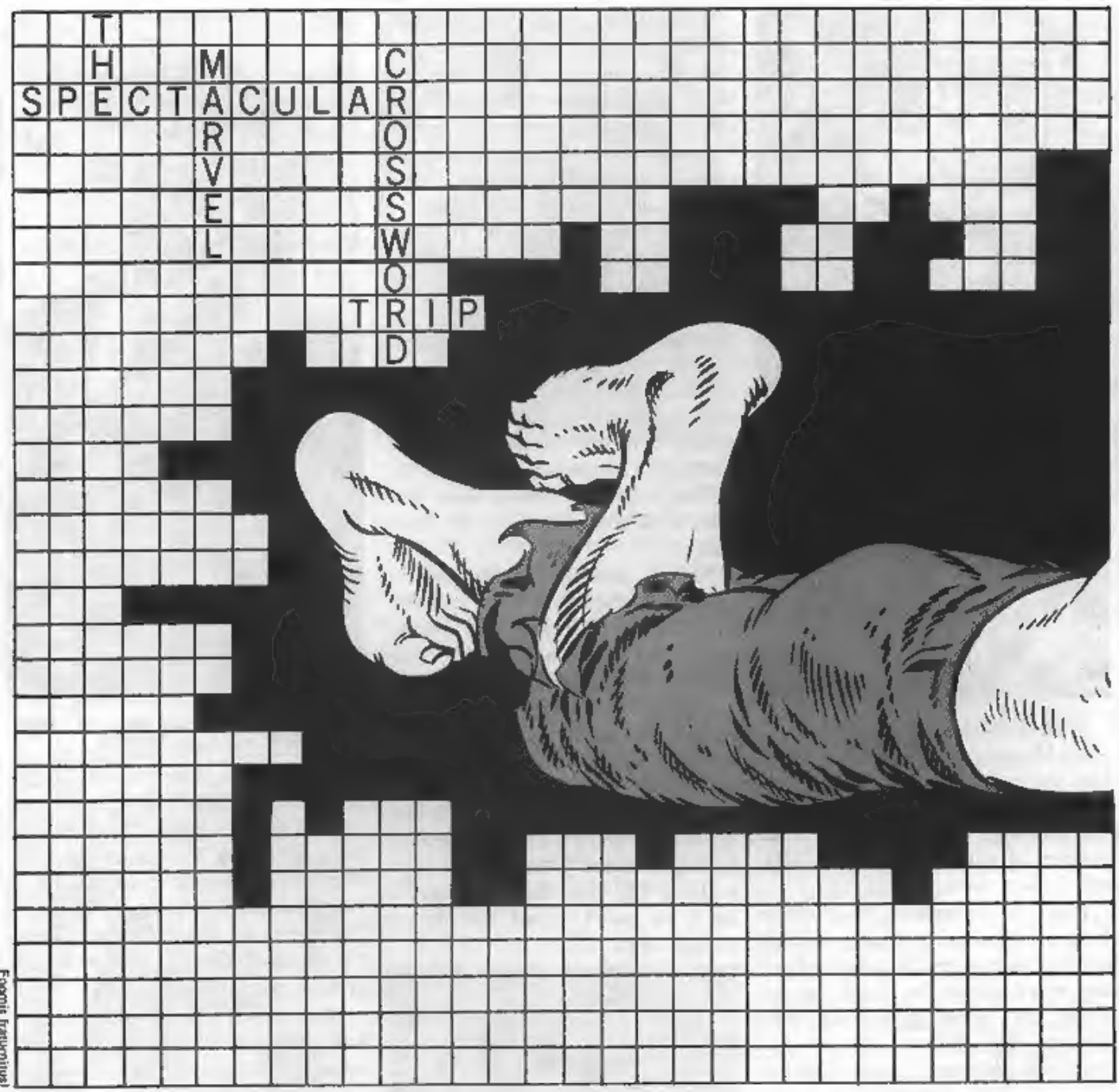
Sinnott continued with Marvel throughout the 50's as both a penciller and inker, and when the Marvel Age of the 60's dawned, he became one of its founders. By combining his superb drawing ability with an immaculate inking style, Joe set the standard for super hero rendering and has been responsible for some of the most beautifully polished inking ever to grace a comic magazine. Believe it or not, Joltin' Joe has been so busy (he inks about 3 pages a day), he hasn't visited the Marvel bullpen since 1957.

A new Foom sweeps clean!

GERARD CONWAY was born September 10, 1952, and a scant 16 years later broke into the comic book field. By the summer of 1970, he had worked his way up to a point where he was writing *Daredevil* and *Iron Man* every month. Now, in 1973, Gerry is writing *Thor*, *Spiderman*, *The Fantastic Four*, *Marvel Team-Up* and *Kull The Conqueror*–a host of Marvel's front-line books.

How does a guy 20 years old and born in Brooklyn manage to accomplish so much? Gerry wouldn't say, but he did quickly add that among his many accomplishments, he has attended New York University, taught at Tulane University's writing seminar, and lectured at the University of Indiana and other colleges. He is also the author of one science fiction novel, *Midnight Dancer*, and is currently working on another titled *Mindship*.

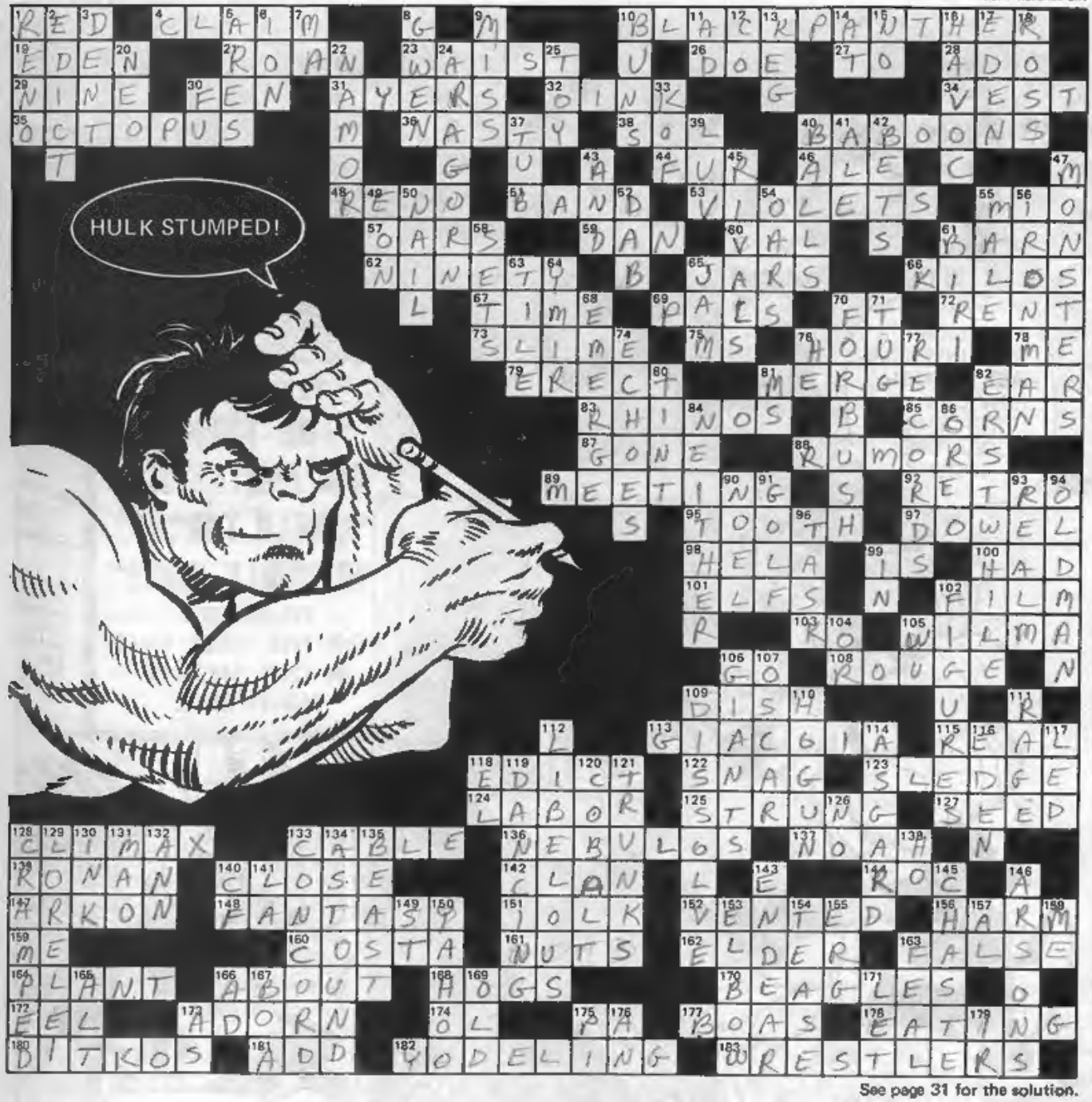
A natural writing talent, Gerry takes from 3 to 4 days to script a comic story and has certainly proved to be one of Marvel's most prolific and skilled writers. Under editor Roy Thomas' watchful eye, Conway plans to bring his own brand of grandeur, imagination, and excitement to the exploits of the FF.



Fotomis fratumtus!

ACROSS

1 The ___ Skull
4 prospector stakes one
10 T'Challa son of T'Chakka (2 wds)
19 the first garden on earth
21 type of western horse
23 area above the hips
26 a female deer
27 opposite of from
28 "Much ___ About Nothing"
29 highest single digit
30 Atlantean princess
31 Sgt. Fury artist
32 pig noise
34 Doc Savage wears one
35 Spidey villain, Dr. _____
36 villain's disposition
38 sun
40 a species of apes
44 animal covering
46 what Volstagg drinks
48 Nevada gambling city
51 small orchestra
53 small purple flower
55 "O Solo ___
57 paddles
59 artist Adkins
60 Fury's girlfriend
61 animal home on a farm
62 four score and ten
65 battles
66 metric measurement
67 measurement of duration
69 Marvel title, Ll ____
70 12 inches (abbrev)
72 to lease out
73 what the Man-Thing is covered with
75 Womens-Lib title
76 Mohammedan nymph
78 myself
79 straight and tall
81 to join
82 facial appendage
83 belonging to Spidey's horned enemy
85 foot ailment
87 going, going, ____
88 false gossip
89 get together
92 prefix meaning to go back
95 fang
97 wooden peg
98 Asgardian goddess of death
99 present tense of be
100 have (past tense)
101 belonging to an elf
102 a movie
103 knock out
105 Buck Roger's girlfriend
106 stop (opposite)
108 used to tint the face or lips
109 plate
113 Inker, Frank _____
115 not imaginary
118 official declaration
122 to catch or hang on
123 very heavy, large hammer
124 work
125 past tense of string
127 plants grow from them
128 the crucial point
133 heavy wire
136 Dr. Strange villain
137 biblical man with arc
139 The Accuser from F.F.
140 to shut
141 Scottish family
144 mythical bird
147 Avenger's sword and sorcery foe
148 make-believe
151 International Order of Lighthouse Keepers (abbr.)
152 ventilated, aerated
158 injury
159 myself
160 John Costanza (pseudonym)
161 acorn, walnut, etc.
162 an old one
163 not true
164 vegetable, fruit
166 approximately
168 pigs
170 type of hunting dogs
172 water snake
173 enhance, add to
174 Friends of ___ Marvel
175 Ma and ___ Kettle
177 plural 167 down
178 consuming
180 before Romita, the Spidey strip was _____
181 subtract (antonym)
182 Swiss mountain calling
183 fighters (sport)



See page 31 for the solution.

DOWN

1 ___ Jones and Kid Cassidy
2 formal declaration
3 creator of Doc Savage
5 god of war
7 wife of 175 across
9 single girl
10 dinner rolls
11 promotional material
12 prefix meaning with, or in addition to
13 beer is kept in it
14 "where it's ..."
15 opposite of yes
16 Alex Summer's alter ego
17 Adam and Eve lived there
18 General Thunderbolt ____
20 one new to his trade
22 The Sub-Mariner
24 The Black Knight's steed
25 plaything
28 oriental villain __ Manchu
32 Keeper of the Faith (initials)
37 rub-a-dub-dub, three men in a ____
39 strong liking, fondness (modernized)
40 spherical objects
41 sold by the tankard
42 wagers
43 conjunctive word
45 opponents
47 title "_____ On The Prowl"
49 an immeasurable period of time
50 small spike
52 a small amount
54 paddles
56 man
58 Tony Stark's alter ego
59 pairs or groups
61 one of Shanna's pets
63 floor covering
64 the Frost Giant of Asgard
65 jelly
66 to surface
70 Honest Injun ____
71 pull
74 recurring sounds
77 black musical discs
80 to shade or color
81 women's lib title
82 at a time in the past
84 not either
86 type of chocolate cookie
90 a Christmas carol
91 tiny, white ball game
93 king's domain
94 Doc Strange's mentor is one (2 wds)
96 a job
99 out (opposite)
102 written symbols
104 alternative (conj)
105 pulp oriental villain, __ Fang
106 huge mythical beings
107 academy award
109 disintegrate
110 mace-wielding Asgardian
111 uncontrollable anger
112 what defamatory writing is
114 home of the gods
116 paradise
117 past tense of lead
118 New York elevated train
119 moving to music
120 tough metal
121 elephants' noses
126 negative
128 tightly squeezed
129 Magneto's female mutant slave
130 writing fluid
131 ___ Tse-Tung
132 girl's name
133 type of grape
134 to amaze or astonish
135 X-Man
136 Santo's laugh
140 Colonel Fury (initials)
141 California city (initials)
145 enamor
146 virgin
148 malicious burnings
149 **Strange Tales** (initials)
150 exclamation of joy
158 arm joint
154 entitle
155 measurement of energy
157 American Legion (initials)
158 -1
160 loyal
168 altitude (abbrev)
169 promotional material
167 ___ constrictor
169 not young
171 allow
173 like
175 Greek letter P, also math term
176 indefinite article
179 Internal Revenue (initials)

THE Fantastic Four
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
MC
10¢
NOV
I--I CAN'T TURN INVISIBLE FAST ENOUGH!! HOW CAN WE STOP THIS CREATURE, TORCH?
JUST WAIT AND SEE, SISTER! THE FANTASTIC FOUR HAVE ONLY BEGUN TO FIGHT!
FEATURING: "THE THING!" "MR. FANTASTIC!" "HUMAN TORCH!" "INVISIBLE GIRL!" TOGETHER FOR THE FIRST TIME IN ONE MIGHTY MAGAZINE!
THE THREE OF YOU CAN'T DO IT ALONE! IT'S TIME FOR THE THING TO TAKE A HAND!
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN ROPES TO KEEP MISTER FANTASTIC OUT OF ACTION!

Cover of the first issue of THE FANTASTIC FOUR – NOVEMBER 1961.

WHEN TITANS CLASH!

We live in a very special world. A world of color and excitement. A world of both ultra-modern and barbaric. A world of handsome men and beautiful women. A world where Gods clash, in their infinite wisdom, to decide the fate of the universe, while mortals squabble over their petty differences. A world of impossible dangers and fantastic rewards, where man can dream wondrous dreams greater than all eternity. A world where love is strong and pure, holding lovers in its tender embrace. Our world is the greatest of all. Ours is the world of imagination, the world of dreams.

In our world, conflict is the basis for all existence. In our world, great men—both good and evil—war over our collective fates. In our world, this clashing of titans is the lifeblood of the adventure we love. In our world, adventure means Marvel Comics. What other title, then, would better describe a column dedicated to the truly outstanding issues of Marvel Comics than "When Titans Clash?" What other title has been used more in those comics themselves?

It would seem fitting that the subject of this first installment be one of Stan Lee's greatest creations for comics. Back in 1961, a comic appeared on the stands that was destined to change the course of not only Marvel Comics but the entire comic industry as well. As you examine the entire spectrum of over ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY issues of the *Fantastic Four*, one thing is obvious, and that is that this comic is a notch above most all other comics.

Few other comics have had as great an impact on the industry as this one, and the reasons for this are as numerous as the ways that the FF's creators put themselves on the line by daring to be different, by being willing to change from the traditional ways of doing things.

In this column and in the ones to follow, it will be my purpose to examine different issues of different titles of the Marvel group, issues that have some special quality of merit that makes them landmarks in comic history.

True greatness, as with *Fantastic Four* 1, proves itself from many different angles of examination. For its time, it was a revolutionary comic book. The basis for this conclusion is not in the central characters themselves as heros; their respective powers were not really all that original.

Several comic characters have had the power to stretch their bodies in a fantastic fashion; the concept stretches back thirty years. The Human Torch is actually the direct descendant of the 1940's Marvel hero of the same name. The Invisible Girl is not the first comic character to have that power. The super strength of the Thing is, if anything, the most common of super hero assets. Here the similarities end. The Thing is probably the most different hero in the entire chronology of comics. The lovable monster called the Thing is another of the main reasons why the *Fantastic Four* is so great.

Until the coming of the Fantastic Four there was very little difference between one comic character and another except what is known as the "funny hat." This refers to some identifiable characteristic, such as a super hero's costume. This concept not only refers to comics but is used in movies and on the stage, and it is there that the name has its origin. It comes from the funny hats that the vaudeville comedians wore. Other examples of this concept in comics may be the hair color, glasses, clothes, or a manner of speaking. The "funny hat," a functional comic device, had in the past taken the place of characterization.

By characterization, we mean the distinctive qualities of a person, involving his reaction to his environment. The members of the Fantastic Four have characterization and react to things in very human ways.

Wow, Modern and Foom!

Today Foom! Tomorrow the world!

BEN, STOP! WAIT!! LOOK WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU! YOU'RE--CHANGING!
DON'T TRY TO TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF IT, MISTER! I'M GOING TO MOP UP THE PLACE WITH YOU!

Examining the Fantastic Four individually we find Mr. Fantastic is a cool, calculating, introspective person who does not lose his temper easily. He shows his emotions but not very often. The Thing has a fast temper and often thinks with his heart rather than with his head. He is very determined and tenacious, seldom leaving a job undone. His emotions are just as strong as his temper, and especially his sense of responsibility and self-sacrifice. He has a sense of humor; without it he could not have survived being the Thing.

The Human Torch is young and impetuous, and at times does not think through his actions before undertaking them. He is brash and caricaturistically hot-tempered. He is a loner and prefers making his own decisions. The Invisible Girl is very feminine in her emotional reactions, but they do not rule her on everything. She is possessive and involved with her husband's life. It is apparent that their contrasting personalities have drawn them together. All of these people could live right next door. We all know someone very much like them.

Still another example of the revolutionary aspect of the FF is explicit in their compelling interaction as a unit, while other comic's groups functioned very much like puppets performing required actions to save the world. Their performance within the group tended to be isolated and very much as if they were working as individuals. Here the Fantastic Four differs from the standard because of the personalities the members possess as individuals. They compliment each others' powers and usually win their battles because they work together. It is important to remember that the Fantastic Four did not seek their powers, nor did they intend to become super heros. They have accepted their responsibility, but it has not been easy for them. This is especially true for the Thing, who has had to give up his humanity to be a "hero". The whole development of this is seen in the origin of the group, as told in the first issue.

We first see the Fantastic Four in

Did you Foom today?

a very disjointed manner as they come in answer to a call signal from Reed Richards, and their unique powers are revealed to us one by one. First comes the Invisible Girl, then the Thing, followed by the Human Torch and Mr. Fantastic. Their premier appearances have a very disturbing effect upon outsiders.

Before starting out against their first foe, they meet together and through flashbacks we learn the origin of their group. We learn that some time before, Reed Richards had gone to Ben Grimm with his girl friend, Sue Storm, and her younger brother, Johnny. Reed needed a pilot for his craft, to go into space, but Ben was against it at first, because of the danger of cosmic rays, and their unknown effects upon humans. Sue uses psychology on him and his pride, and traps him into going. The trip is unauthorized, but liftoff is successful and the unknown opens up before them. As they enter the cosmic storm area their shielding proves to be inadequate, and they are bombarded by mysterious rays.

Each one is affected differently. Ben is incapacitated, so the ship returns to earth under the control of the automatic pilot, and they survive the crash landing without any additional problems. Once back on earth, they learn for the first time exactly how the cosmic rays affected them.

First, Sue Storm becomes invisible without wanting to, and shortly after returns to normal. Then, while Ben Grimm is losing his temper, he starts to change and becomes the monster that Sue calls the Thing. While he is trying to knock Reed Richards' head off, Reed discovers his own incredible power. By this time, they both lose their tempers, but before things get too hot, Johnny Storm bursts into flame, right before the startled eyes of his friends. When they all have regained their composure and original forms, they understand that fate has played a cruel joke upon them, making them something more (or less) than human. With this comes the realization of the tremendous responsibility they are faced with.

A Foom saved is a Foom earned

Thus was born the greatest fighting team of all time.

It was a rather haphazard beginning, but truly fitting, in consideration of the hectic life they have lived since. But it was not in our heroes alone that the revolutionary aspects of the comic are noted. It was to become traditional of the Fantastic Four that their villians are not stereotyped, but also have very real problems and personalities as well. Their villians are some of the most popular ever, as with the infamous Dr. Doom. In the first issue however, our villian is another whose background is also tinged with tragedy, the Mole Man.

He had suffered greatly at the hands of his fellow men. He had been rejected and had sought refuge in the caves of the earth, that they might hide his deformed countenance from the eyes of those who spurned him, and, in so doing, discovered the means of his vengeance upon civilization. He had been a lonely man and that loneliness drove him to the evil he sought to bring upon his fellow men. Despite his intentions, one still tends to pity him, and that too is somewhat revolutionary.

Perhaps the best thing about the first issue of the *Fantastic Four* is the fact that the high standards set at the beginning were continued through the rest of the issues, making it a truly tremendous series. In many ways comics today are better than ever, and that is the result of the willingness of certain men in the industry to try something new, to break the mold.

Whatever the future may hold for comics, it will be a better future than what we might have expected if it were not for the changes that made the present what it is.

Comics have become an accomplished entertainment medium enjoyed by all ages. Comic fans can be proud of the position of the industry today, and can be grateful as well to the pioneers like Stan Lee and Jack Kirby. It was adequately said in that very comic book: "And so was born The Fantastic Four!! And from that moment on, the world would never again be the same!!"

—Ed Noonchester

FANTASTIC FOUR CHECKLIST

NUMBER	DATE	TITLE	WRITER	[illegible]	INKER	PP
1	11/61	*The Origin Of The Fantastic Four*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	13
		The Fantastic Four Meet The Mole Man	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	12
2	1/62	*The Skrulls From Outer Space*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	24
3	3/62	*The Menace Of The Miracle Man*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	23
4	5/62	*The Coming Of The Sub-Mariner*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	23
5	7/62	*Prisoners Of Doc Doom*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	23
6	9/62	*Captives Of The Deadly Duo*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	24
7	11/62	*Prisoners Of Kurrgo*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	24
8	11/62	*Prisoners Of The Puppet Master*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	23
9	12/62	*The End Of The Fantastic Four*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	23
10	1/63	*The Return Of Doctor Doom*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	23
11	2/63	*A Visit With The Fantastic Four*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	11
		The Impossible Man	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	11
12	3/63	*The Incredible Hulk*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	22
13	4/63	*The Red Ghost and His Indescribable Super Apes*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Steve Ditko	22
14	5/63	*Sub-Mariner And The Merciless Puppet Master*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	22
15	6/63	*The Mad Thinker And His Awesome Android*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	20
16	7/63	*The Micro World Of Doctor Doom*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	22
17	8/63	*In The Clutches Of Doctor Doom*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	22
18	9/63	*A Skrull Walks Among Us*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	21
19	10/63	*Prisoners Of The Pharaoh*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	22
20	11/63	*The Mysterious Molecule Man*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	22
21	12/63	*The Hate-Monger*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	George Bell	22
22	1/64	*The Return Of The Mole Man*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	George Bell	22
23	2/64	*The Master Plan Of Doctor Doom*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	George Bell	23
24	3/64	*The Infant Terrible*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	George Bell	23
25	4/64	*The Hulk vs. The Thing*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	George Bell	22
26	5/64	*The Avengers Take Over*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	George Bell	23
27	6/64	*The Search For The Sub-Mariner*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	George Bell	23
28	7/64	*We Have To Fight The X-Men*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	22
29	8/64	*It Started On Yancy Street*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	22
30	9/64	*The Dreaded Diablo*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	22
31	10/64	*The Mad Menace Of The Macabre Mole Man*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	21
32	11/64	*Death Of A Hero*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	21
33	12/64	*Side-By-Side With The Sub-Mariner*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	20
34	1/65	*A House Divided*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	20
35	2/65	*Calamity On The Campus*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	20
36	3/65	*The Frightful Four*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	20
37	4/65	*Behold A Distant Star*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	20
38	5/65	*Defeated By The Frightful Four*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	20
39	6/65	*A Blind Man Shall Lead Them*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Frank Giacoia	20
40	7/65	*The Battle Of The Baxter Building*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Vince Colletta	20
41	8/65	*The Brutal Betrayal Of Ben Grimm*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Vince Colletta	20
42	9/65	*To Save You Why Must I Kill You?*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Vince Colletta	20
43	10/65	*Lo, There Shall Be An Ending*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Vince Colletta	20
44	11/65	*The Gentleman's Name Is Gorgon*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
45	12/65	*Among Us Hide The Inhumans*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
46	1/66	*Those Who Would Destroy Us*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
47	2/66	*Beware The Hidden Land*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
48	3/66	*The Coming Of Galactus*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
49	4/66	*If This Be Doomsday*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
50	5/66	*The Startling Saga Of The Silver Surfer*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
51	6/66	*This Man. This Monster*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
52	7/66	*The Black Panther*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
53	8/66	*The Way It Began*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
54	9/66	*Whosoever Finds The Evil Eye*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
55	10/66	*When Strikes The Silver Surfer*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
56	11/66	*Klaw, The Murderous Master Of Sound*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
57	12/66	*Enter Doctor Doom*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
58	1/67	*The Dismal Dregs Of Defeat*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
59	2/67	*Doomsday*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
60	3/67	*The Peril And The Power*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
61	4/67	*Where Stalks The Sandman*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
62	5/67	*And One Shall Save Him*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
63	6/67	*Blastaar The Living Bomb-Blast*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
64	7/67	*The Sentry Sinister*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
65	8/67	*From Beyond This Planet Earth*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
66	9/67	*What Lurks Behind The Beehive*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
67	10/67	*When Opens The Cocoon*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
68	11/67	*His Mission. Destroy The Fantastic Four*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
69	12/67	*By Ben Betrayed*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
70	1/68	*When Fall The Mighty*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
71	2/68	*And So It Ends*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
72	3/68	*Where Soars The Silver Surfer*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
73	4/68	*The Flames Of Battle*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
74	5/68	*When Calls Galactus*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
75	6/68	*Worlds Within Worlds*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
76	7/68	*Stranded In Sub-Atomica*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
77	8/68	*Shall Earth Endure*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
78	9/68	*The Thing No More*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
79	10/68	*A Monster Forever*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
80	11/68	*Where Treads The Living Totem*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
81	12/68	*Enter The Exquisite Elemental*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
82	1/69	*The Mark Of The Madman*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
83	2/69	*Shall Man Survive*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
84	3/69	*The Name Is Doom*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
85	4/69	*Within The Tortured Land*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
86	5/69	*The Victims*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
87	6/69	*The Power And The Pride*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
88	7/69	*The House There Was*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
89	8/69	*The Madness Of The Mole Man*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
90	9/69	*The Skrull Takes A Slave*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
91	10/69	*The Thing Enslaved*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20

FANTASTIC FOUR CHECKLIST

NUMBER	DATE	TITLE	WRITER	[illegible]	[illegible]	PP
92	11/69	*Ben Grimm, Killer*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
93	12/69	*At The Mercy Of Torgo*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Frank Giacoia	20
94	1/70	*The Return Of The Frightful Four*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
95	2/70	*Tomorrow—World War Three*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
96	3/70	*The Mad Thinker And His Androids Of Death*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Frank Giacoia	20
97	4/70	*The Monster From The Lost Lagoon*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Frank Giacoia	20
98	5/70	*Mystery On The Moon*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
99	6/70	*The Torch Goes Wild*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	20
100	7/70	*The Long Journey Home*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	19
101	8/70	*Bedlam In The Baxter Building*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	19
102	9/70	*The Strength Of The Sub-Mariner*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	19
103	10/70	*The War With Atlantis*	Stan Lee	John Romita	John Verpoorten	19
104	11/70	*Our World—Enslaved*	Stan Lee	John Romita	John Verpoorten	19
105	12/70	*The Monster In The Streets*	Stan Lee	John Romita	John Verpoorten	19
106	1/71	*The Monster's Secret*	Stan Lee	John Romita	Joe Sinnott	19
107	2/71	*And Now—The Thing*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	19
108	3/71	*The Monstrous Mystery Of The Nega-Man*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby/ [illegible] Romita/ John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	19
109	4/71	*Death In A Negative Zone*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	19
110	5/71	*One From Four Leaves Three*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	19
111	6/71	*The Thing Amok*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	19
112	7/71	*Battle Of The Behemoths*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	19
113	8/71	*The Power Of The Over-Mind*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	19
114	9/71	*But Who Shall Stop The Over-Mind?*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Frank Giacoia	19
115	10/71	*The Secret Of The Eternals*	Stan Lee/ Archie Goodwin	John [illegible]	Joe Sinnott	19
116	11/71	*The Alien, The Ally, And Armageddon*	Archie Goodwin	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	34
117	12/71	*The Flame And The Quest*	Archie Goodwin	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	20
118	1/72	*Thunder In The Ruins*	Archie Goodwin	John Buscema	Jim Mooney	15
		What Mad World?	Archie Goodwin	John Buscema	Jim Mooney	6
119	2/72	*Three Stood Together*	Roy Thomas	John [illegible]	Joe Sinnott	21
120	3/72	*The Horror That Walks On Air*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	21
121	4/72	*The Mysterious Mind-Blowing Secret Of Gabriel*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	21
122	5/72	*Galactus Unleashed*	Stan Lee	John [illegible]	Joe Sinnott	21
123	6/72	*This World Enslaved*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	20
124	7/72	*The Return Of The Monster*	Stan Lee	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	20
125	8/72	*The Monster's Secret*	Stan Lee	John [illegible]	Joe Sinnott	20
126	9/72	*The Way It Began*	Roy Thomas	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	20
127	10/72	*Where The Sun Dares Not Shine*	Roy Thomas	John Buscema	Joe Sinnott	20
128	11/72	*Death In A Dark And Lonely Place*	Roy Thomas	John Buscema/ Joe Sinnott	Joe Sinnott	20
129	12/72	*The Frightful Four—Plus One*	Roy Thomas	John Buscema/ Joe Sinnott	Joe Sinnott	20
130	1/73	*Battleground: The Baxter Building*	Roy Thomas	John Buscema/ Joe Sinnott	Joe Sinnott	20
131	2/73	*Revolt In Paradise*	Roy Thomas	Ross Andru	Joe Sinnott	20
132	3/73	*Omega! The Ultimate Enemy*	Roy Thomas	John Buscema/ Joe Sinnott	Joe Sinnott	20

FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #1-3 / SPECIAL #4-9

NUMBER	DATE	TITLE	WRITER	PENCILLER	INKER	PP
1	1963	*Sub-Mariner vs. The Human Race*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Dick Ayers	37
		Rogue's Gallery				11
		Questions And Answers About FF				3
		The Fabulous Fantastic Four Meet Spider Man (From "Spider-Man" #8)				6
		The Origin Of The Fantastic Four (From "Fantastic Four" #1—revised)				13
2	1964	*The Fantastic Origin Of Doctor Doom*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	12
		Rogue's Gallery				6
		Prisoners Of Doc Doom (From "Fantastic Four" #7)				23
		Pin-Ups: Torch, Sue, Thing, Alicia, Reed				5
		The Final Victory Of Dr. Doom	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Chic Stone	25
3	1965	*Bedlam At The Baxter Building*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Vince Colletta	23
		Captives Of The Deadly Duo (From "Fantastic Four" #6)				24
		A Visit With The Fantastic Four (From "Fantastic Four" #11)				11
		The Impossible Man (From "Fantastic Four" #11)				11
4	11/66	*The Torch That Was*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	19
		The Hulk vs. The Thing (From "Fantastic Four" #25)				22
		The Avengers Take Over (From "Fantastic Four" #26)				23
5	11/67	*Divide—And Conquer*	Stan Lee	[illegible] Kirby	Joe Sinnott	30
		This Is A Plot?	Jack Kirby	Jack Kirby	Frank Giacoia	3
		Pin-Up Section				10
		The Peerless Power Of The Silver Surfer	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Frank Giacoia	12
6	11/68	*Let There Be Life*	Stan Lee	Jack Kirby	Joe Sinnott	48
7	11/69	*The Fantastic Four Meet The Mole Man* (From "Fantastic Four" #1)				12
		The Fantastic Origin Of Doctor Doom (From "Fantastic Four Annual" #2)				12
		The Final Victory Of Dr. Doom (From "Fantastic Four Annual" #2)				25
		Bullpen Photos				4
8	12/70	*Sub-Mariner vs. The Human Race* (From "Fantastic Four Annual" #1)				37
		Rogue's Gallery (From "Fantastic Four Annual" #1)				11
		Questions And Answers About FF (From "Fantastic Four Annual" #1)				3
9	12/71	*Lo, There Shall Be An Ending* (From "Fantastic Four" #43)				19
		The Bouncing Ball Of Doom (From "Strange Tales" #131)				12
		Bedlam At The Baxter Building (From "Fantastic Four Annual" #3)				21

O O C S A V A G E A V E N G E R S G A B E E P I
B D B A H L N A T A S H A A H F K A Z A R A A V
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D R A C U L A J A R V I S T R U C K E R R O S S
W E R E W O L F W O O C R O M B L A C K B O L T

KRAVEN THE HUNTER challenges you to find 102 heroes and villains hidden vertically, horizontally and diagonally in the block of letters above. Then you can try the Kraven Hunter challenge and play this game!

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~~Angel~~
~~Antman~~
~~Ares~~
~~Avengers~~
~~Balder~~
~~Beast~~
~~Blu~~
~~Blackbolt~~
~~Blob~~
~~Bucky~~
~~Captain America~~
~~Cat~~
~~Conan~~
~~Crom~~
~~Crystal~~
~~Cyclops~~
~~Daredevil~~
~~Doc Savage~~
~~Dorma~~
~~Dracula~~
~~Dr. Doom~~
~~Dr. Octopus~~
~~Dr. Strange~~
~~Druid~~
~~Ego~~
~~Falcon~~
~~Fandral~~
~~Foom~~
~~Frankenstein~~
~~Frog~~
~~Fury~~
~~Gabe~~
~~Galactus~~
~~Goblin~~
~~Gorgon~~
~~Gwen~~
~~Havoc~~
~~Hela~~
~~Him~~
~~Hyde~~
~~Hydra~~
~~Hulk~~
~~iceman~~
~~Ina~~
~~Iron Man~~
~~Ivy Forbush~~
~~Jet~~
~~Jonah~~
~~Jarvis~~
~~Kang~~
~~Karnak~~
~~Kazar~~
~~Karl~~
~~Luke Cage~~
~~Marvel~~
~~Maximus~~
~~Medusa~~
~~Mole Man~~
~~Mr. Fantastic~~
~~Natasha~~
~~Nerd~~
~~Norns~~
~~Odin~~
~~Poste Pot~~
~~Pele~~
~~Pietro~~
~~Pluto~~
~~Red Skull~~
~~Ronan~~
~~Ross~~
~~Sandman~~
~~Scorpio~~
~~Shanna~~
~~Shield~~
~~Sif~~
~~Silver Surfer~~
~~Skrull~~
~~Spidey~~
~~Strucker~~
~~Sub-Mariner~~
~~Sue Storm~~
~~Tana~~
~~Thena~~
~~Thing~~
~~Thongor~~
~~Thor~~
~~Torch~~
~~Trapster~~
~~Triton~~
~~Joe~~
~~Junos~~
~~Ural~~
~~Val~~
~~Vision~~
~~Wanda~~
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~~Woo~~
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~~Yellow Claw~~
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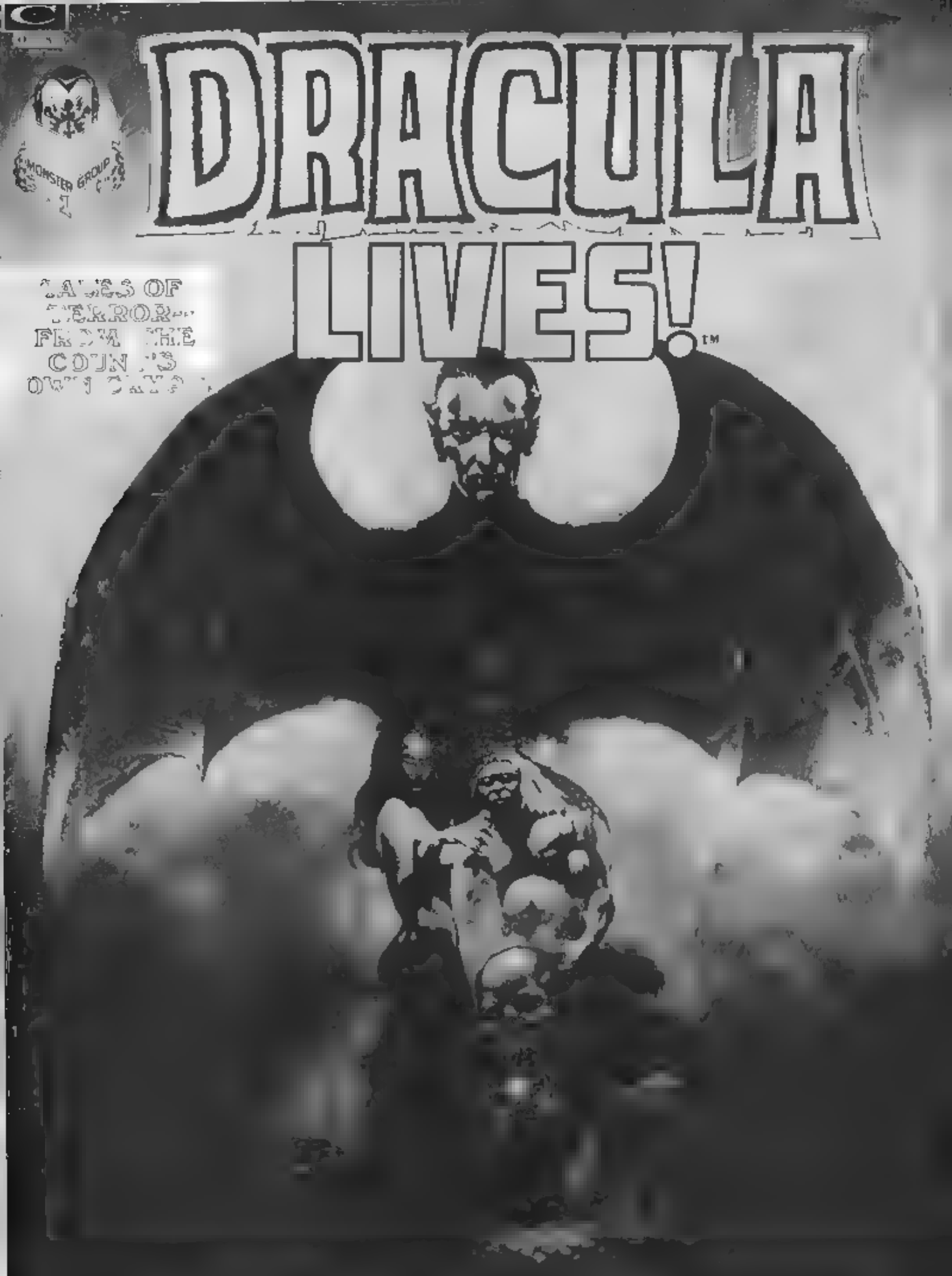


The cover above marks Marvel's premier black and white offering on sale February

FAR-OUT FANFARE AND INFOOMATION!

Mighty Marvel's on the move again!

With the advent of FOOM, and the appearance of four new black and white comic magazines, Marvel takes another giant step forward. Once again the batty bullpen is branching out to prove this is, indeed, the Marvel Age of Comics.

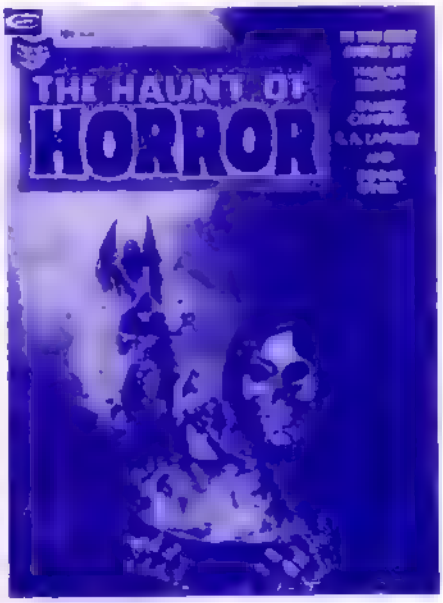
After cautiously experimenting over the years with one-shot items like *Spectacular Spiderman* and *Savage Tales*, Marvel will plunge head first into the black and white horror magazine market. The four new magazines will immediately establish them as the largest publisher of black and white comics in the business. Each book will cost 75¢ and appear bi-monthly, although the first issues of each title will be staggered over a four month release period.

All of the books will be horror-oriented and feature mostly new material, but they will also carry several reprints from the 1950's. In addition to the comic material, the books will feature a combination of new visual ideas to help them get underway.

The first book due out is *Dracula* and it will go on sale in February. The character will be based on the same Dracula in the color comic (which will continue on its merry way), but the series and story-line will not be continuous from book to book. Instead, the Dracula in the black and white magazine will freely be used in different settings and time periods.

The first issue features a painted cover by Boris Vallejo, and a lead story placing Dracula in today's New York City. Gerry Conway will script the first story, with Gene Colan on pencils and Tom Palmer inking. "Suffer Not A Witch" picks up Dracula at the Salem witch trials in 1641, and features art by Alan Weiss and Dick Giordano. Roy Thomas, who also edits all of the magazines, will script. The third new story is by Steve Gerber, Rich Buckler and Pablo Marcos, and sets Drac in Paris during the early 1900's.

For the second issue, Neal Adams has turned in pages on a story that recounts the awesome origin of Dracula, while plans are being made to adapt Bram Stoker's original novel into comic form.



The second black and white magazine will be released in March with the title, *Monsters Unleashed*. This book will feature monster-oriented tales as well as the long-awaited Ralph Reese illustrated Solomon Kane stories by Robert E. Howard, and a thrilling werewolf tale by Robert Bloch. Gray Morrow did the cover on this one and will be working on some of the other books as well.

Tales of The Zombie is the title of the April release, and it sports a spine-tingling Boris Vallejo cover. The Zombie is the lead character in this black and white offering from the fabulous world of Marvel. He (or it) stars in a movie-length, 27-page epic that contains art by Bill Everett, John Buscema and Tom Palmer, written by Roy Thomas and Steve Gerber. This is one *definitely* not to be missed!

The fourth of the new Marvel horror magazines is a chiller called *Vampire Tales*. This book will feature a visualization of the first vampire story ever, Vampyre, written in the early 1800's by Polidori. Morbius (who was the Roy Thomas/Gil Kane creation in some of the most successful Spiderman adventures) also has his own series in this book with art by titanic Tom Sutton and writing by Steve Gerber.

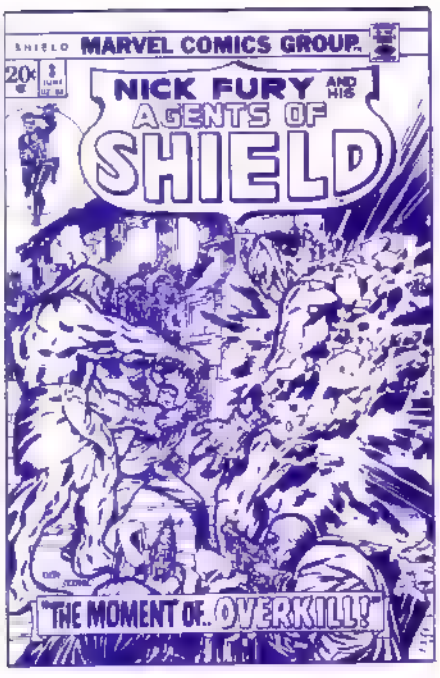
The ever-lovin' bullpen of writers and artists has been anxiously awaiting the coming of these new black and white titles. Those of you who relish tales of nerve-shattering suspense and demoniac evil will be amply rewarded by picking up this quartet of terror thrillers. We know—we've seen 'em!

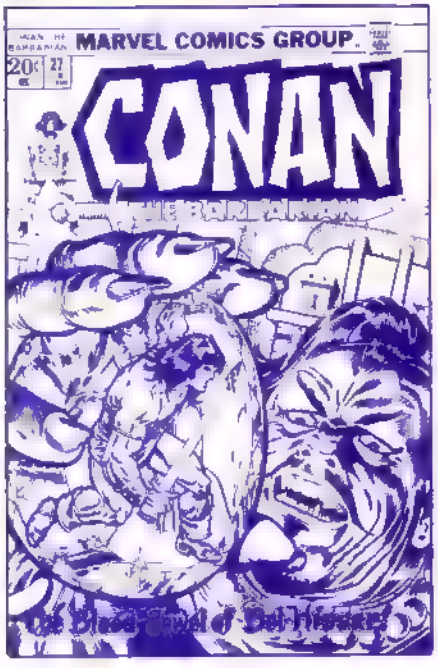
After going through a title change or two, *The Haunt of Horror* is finally underway. This book marks Marvel's venture into the digest pulp field. Ghoulish Gray Morrow painted the cover for the first issue which includes some spine-shivering art by Mike Ploog and others embellishing the stories inside. The premier issue contains such thrillers as Robert E. Howard's "Usurp The Night," Fritz Leiber's "Conjure Wife," and work by notable writers Harlan Ellison and R. A. Lafferty.

The Haunt of Horror is another example of Marvel's moving into a new direction. Packed with tales guaranteed to lift the hair at the back of your neck, the book was created in the tradition of the trend-setting pulps of the 30's and 40's, *Weird Tales* and *Unknown*. The best of imaginative fiction will be featured, along with the scary sampling of illustrations illuminating the text. If you miss this first issue collector's item, don't say we didn't warn ya!

There have been staff changes made at Marvel and some new faces added to the already blushing bullpen. Johnny Romita has taken on the full-time job of art director, and will be laying out most of Marvel's

MONSTERS UNLEASHED!
MARVEL MONSTER GROUP
THE MAN WHO CRIED WEREWOLF!
FROM THE POISONOUS PEN OF
ROBERT BLOCH
AUTHOR OF
PSYCHO and ASYLUM





covers, as well as coaching the younger artists, and regularly inking the adventures of Spiderman, which is now being pencilled by Gil Kane.

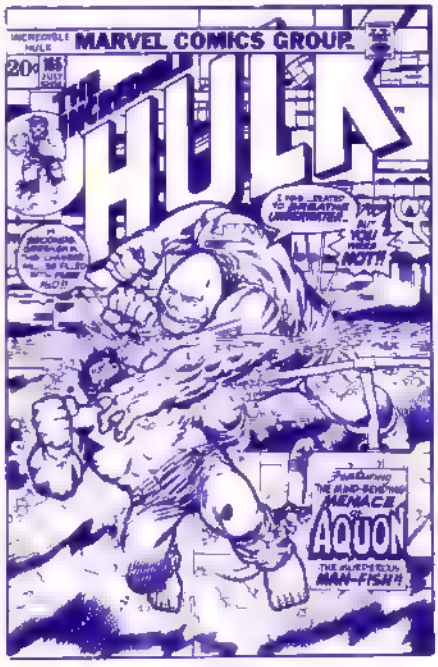
Marvelous Marie Severin has been appointed to the position of chief colorist at Marvel and will be overseeing all of the coloring in the comics line-up. Marv Wolfman has become the newest assistant editor in the bullpen, where he will be proofreading and aiding Roy as much as possible, in addition to his writing chores. John Albano is another new name at Marvel that will soon be appearing in a writing capacity in both the color and the black and white books.

Barry Smith has returned from England, planning to illustrate comics once again, as well as occasional children's books. He will be doing a substantial amount of work for Marvel, pencilling mystery and horror books, along with working on a special Conan job.

The *Dracula* color comic is in for some startling changes as Mad Marv Wolfman continues to record the resurrected vampire's exploits. In issue 9, the Count must seek refuge in a fishing village and associate with humans for the first time in his death. Number 10 introduces a new character named Blade—a black vampire hunter who is capable of

killing Dracula because he is immune to vampire bites. Blade hunts Dracula with a wooden stake and proves to be a more than worthy nemesis. Don't take our word for it; see for yourself if you dare!

Dracula 11 pits the blood-thirsty being against a weird Voodoo menace. Issues 12 and 13 features a two-part tale that takes place in and about a haunted house. Somewhere within this framework of horror and mystery, Marv plans to add a few



more notes of tragedy in the form of the deaths of two or three of the major characters. Wolfman also plans to do a two-part story that will take the villainous vampire to Los Angeles where Dracula battles—Dracula.

The War of The Worlds, and its hero Killraven, make their power-packed premier in February, in *Amazing Adventures* 18. Neal Adams pencilled the first half of the book and Howard Chaykin finished the job. Chaykin will be pencilling and Gerry Conway will script the second issue titled, "The Sirens of Seventh Avenue."

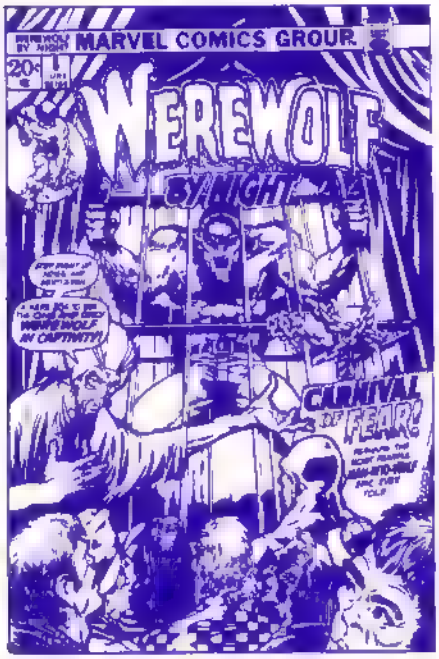
In upcoming issues of his own mag, the Incredible Hulk will be fighting a nefarious villain known as Captain Omen, who possesses an undersea ship as large as a country. We don't believe it ourselves!

Doc Savage will begin adapting Kenneth (Lester Dent) Robeson's novel, "The Monsters," with plotting

All the world's a Foom!

by Steve Englehart and script by Gardner Fox. Ross Andru and Tom Palmer will continue to handle the art chores. There will, however, be a different inker on the second half of "The Monsters," but only for that one issue.

Werewolf By Night will begin a two-part story in issue 6 with "The Carnival of Fear." The lycanthropic hero finds himself kidnapped and placed in a circus sideshow while being chased by Lew Hackett, a



There's no Foom like an old Foom!

policeman set on capturing the weird wolfman.

Upcoming issues of *Iron Man* will find him fighting such diabolic foes as The Marauder and an old X-Men villain, The Firebrand.

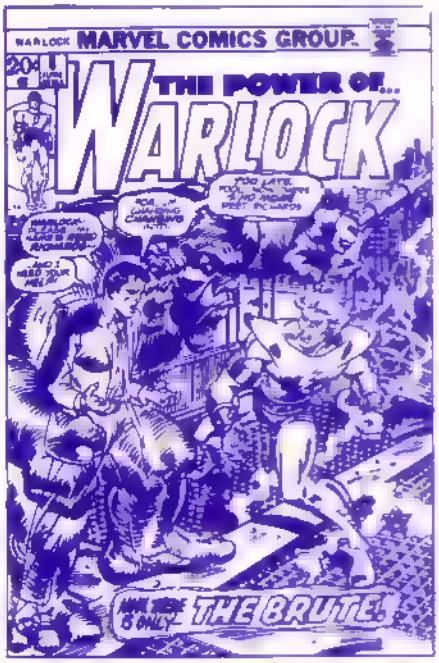
Warlock, in his senses-stunning spectacular on Earth-Two is going to become more involved with Victor Von Doom on that world, and Reed Richards, rather than being Mister Fantastic, will become the savage creature known as The Brute. Wotta revoltin' development!

Meanwhile, Earth's Dr. Doom, having ripped-off Luke Cage for his *Hero For Hire* fee, is pursued to Latveria by the irate super hero. Once in Europe, Cage finds he must face The Faceless One and protect Doom from hordes of invading robots.

The Thing is going to star in his own team-up book, much the same as Spiderman's *Marvel Team-up*. The tangerine-tinted titan will be taking over the *Marvel Feature* comic, and his first adventures will ally him with The Hulk and The Sub-Mariner. With friends like those, who needs enemies?

The *Strange Tales* title will be reactivated in the near future with Len Wein and Gene Colan combining their tremendous talents on a project too secret to reveal at the moment. We'll tell ya all about it, frantic one, as soon as we know what its about ourselves—all we can reveal now is its name—Brother Voodoo. Len has also stepped in to write one issue of *Thor* for the overworked Gerry Conway.

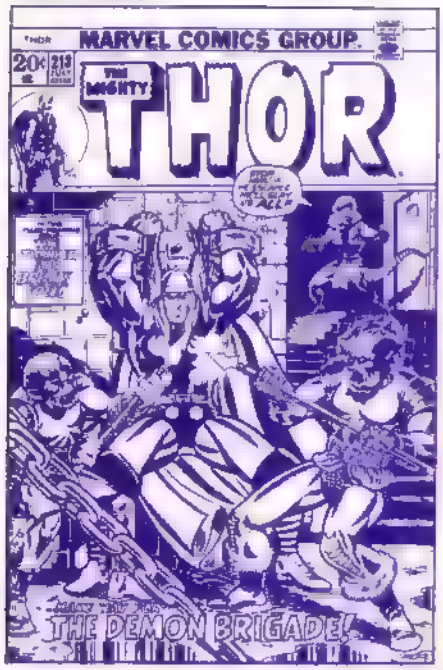
Don McGregor and Rich Buckler

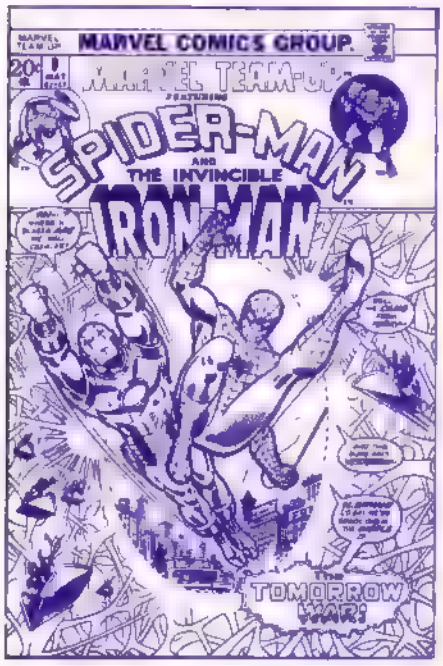


have joined forces to present one of Marvel's most spectacular characters, The Black Panther, for the pages of *Jungle Action*.

To quote Gerry Conway, the upcoming issues of *Thor* will contain, "Thor's reunion with Sif, the return of the villainous 4-D Man, another bout with the Rigelian Colonizers and the usual epic grandeur and Asgardian majesty."

Coming soon to the pages of *Marvel Team-Up* is a 3-part story that throws Spidey into battle side-by-side with Iron Man, the Human Torch and The Inhumans against Kang and The Tomorrow Man. This is one you won't want to miss!





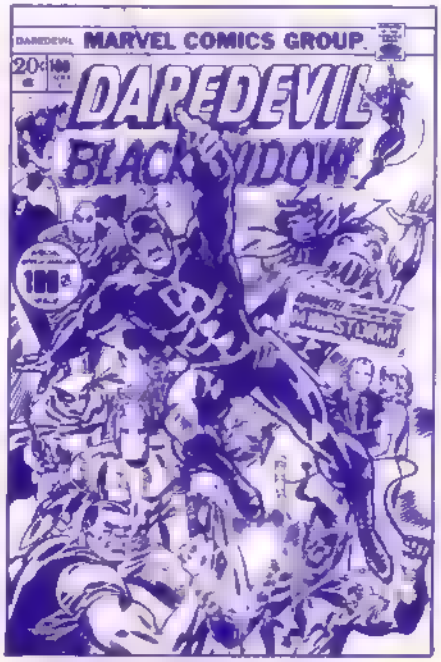
Gerry Conway will be writing one issue of *Daredevil* to help ease things up for the regular writer, Steve Gerber. Don Heck, by the way, will be taking over the pencilling chores on DD, after a fill-in issue by Syd Shores.

World's Unknown 2 will contain the L. Sprague De Camp story, "A Gun for Dinosaur," illustrated by Val Mayerik and Ernie Chua and written by Roy Thomas. Also slated for work in the book are Gil Kane, Tom Sutton and Gerry Conway in a story titled "Doorstep," by Keith Laumer. This book will feature all new material from now on.

Don Heck will be pencilling The Sub-Mariner while Bill Everett continues to recuperate from his heart attack last November. You might drop Wild Bill a note wishing him a speedy recovery.

In an upcoming issue of Spiderman, J. Jonah Jameson hires Luke Cage to hunt down wonderous webspinner, Liz Allen returns, and a scientific werewolf named Man-Wolf appears to plague the already depressed superhero who seems to get out on the wrong side of bed every morning.

As Conway takes over the writing of the Fantastic Four, he has several plans in mind, among them, an important development in the Alicia



Masters–Ben Grimm relationship, and some new twists in the role and character of Wyatt Wingfoot. Another earth-shaking, cosmos-crashing series of encounters with Dr. Doom is being planned. Look out for the return of the unforgettable Coach Thorpe.

Roy Thomas will be returning to the FF to plot a two-part epic set in the 1950's. The special 137th issue will feature the start of this titanic tale, and will doubtlessly be a mile-

stone in the FF saga. Their titles, "Rock Around The Cosmos" and "Rumble on Planet Three."

Special last minute news: The best-selling Spiderman record, a runaway hit in the United States and England is reportedly doing so well that Gerry Conway has been approached to write a second one. He plans to adapt his Spidey-Luke Cage combat classic into aural form by March or April of this year.

There has also been some talk around the bullpen concerning a one hour, animated Christmas Special that will feature all the Marvel characters. This show would not be a Saturday morning special, but a prime time show with nationwide distribution. Remember, Foom fans, you read it here first!

Well, that's the wrap-up, gang! Watch for the next issue of FOOM and all the recent developments from the house of ideas. Til then, remember this–the best is yet to come!

SPECIAL FANTASTIC FOUR PIN-UP PAGE

See page

RECOMMENDED READING

There are a good number of comic book oriented fanzines published every month around fandom. They can cost anywhere from 25¢ to a couple of dollars, and they manage to cover every possible aspect of comics. Each issue, FOOM will list and recommend several of the most popular fan magazines available today. Please remember that because many of these publications are limited in number and are products of an individual's hobby and interests, they do not always print enough copies to meet the demands of the readers. We highly advise that upon first ordering many of these fanzines, you enclose a check or money order as payment and have a little patience. Most of the fanzines come either third class mail or book rate, so there may be a delay of several weeks before your order is processed and delivered to you. In most cases, if an issue is sold out, a publisher will hold the order over until the next issue is published.

Possibly two of the most essential items necessary for a comic collection are Steranko's *HISTORY OF COMICS* volumes. Wrapped in beautifully illustrated covers by the author, these well-researched books cover every aspect of comic book history. Written and prepared by award-winning artist, Jim Steranko, each page is virtually bursting with cover reproductions, original drawings and inside stories about your favorite comic writers, artists and characters. Volume One is 84 pages, and covers the beginnings of the comic art form as well as the histories of such favorite characters as Captain America, Superman, Batman and the other popular comics of the 40's. The Second Volume is even bigger, running 132 pages, and featuring a rich variety of information and graphic excellence in the same manner as Volume One. This second book gives you the rundown on Captain Marvel, the Marvel Family, The Spirit, Blackhawk and a host of artists and writers as well as spotlighting hundreds of other characters. For the person just beginning his comic book collecting career, these books are a must. For those who are already collectors, these volumes provide a valuable insight to the more intricate side of the industry. Volume One is available for $3 plus .25 postage and Volume Two is $5 plus .40 postage (foreign orders add .25), both from SUPERGRAPHICS, BOX 445, Wyomissing, Penna. 19610.

Another publication for the comic-bug is *COMIXSCENE*, the finest bi-monthly newspaper of comic book news, as well as coverage of the motion picture, pulp and media scenes. A two-color tabloid, *COMIXSCENE* manages to give its readers advance news on which books are being dropped, what new books are being planned, and detailed reports on who will write and draw virtually every book on the newsstand. There are also countless cover reproductions of books months in advance, as well as articles on the pulps, comics, motion pictures and special features. Besides all this, you will find some of the greatest artists in the comic industry represented in *COMIXSCENE*. No fan can afford to be without it. Single issues are 50¢ from SUPERGRAPHICS, Box 445, Wyomissing, Penna. 19610.

A fine example of a well-rounded comic oriented fan magazine can be found in Martin Greim's *COMIC CRUSADER*. Published several times each year, *CC* offers in-depth articles as well as original and new comic strips. Marty always presents his fanzine in a neat package, decked in professionally illustrated covers and inside spot illustrations. You can order the current issue of *COMIC CRUSADER* for 75¢ from Martin Greim, Box 132, Dedham, Massachusetts 02026.

If you are the type of collector interested in obtaining old issues of your favorite comic, Golden Age material, or just anxious to order issues you some how missed buying, then the *Buyer's Guide* is for you. For just $2 per year, you will receive a new issue every other week. The tabloid-sized paper is full of ads from other comic fans and dealers, offering comics, art, fanzines and other goodies for sale. You can order or inquire about a subscription by writing Buyer's Guide, Dynapubs Enterprises, RR 1, Box 297, East Moline, Ill. 61244.

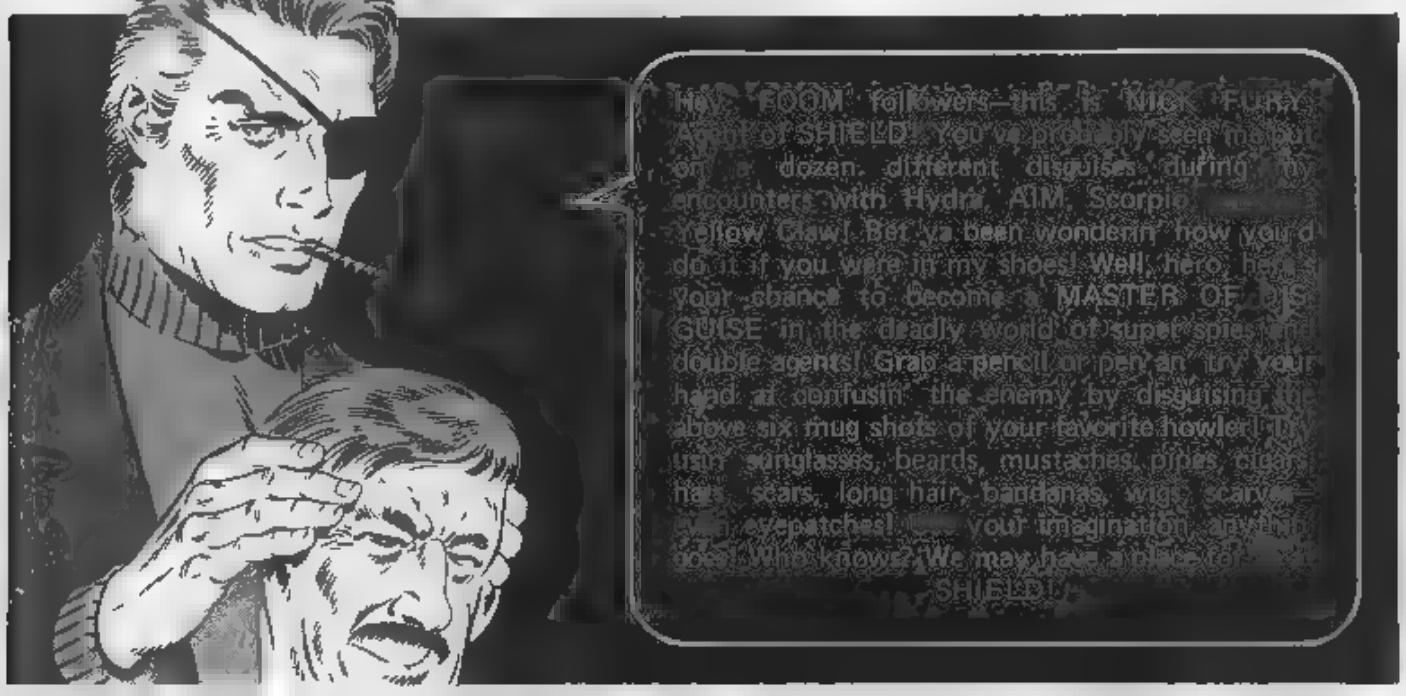
Another well-packaged, fully-illustrated fanzine is Bill Wilson's *THE COLLECTOR*. Spiced with articles on comics, fiction, an occassional strip and artwork by many of your favorite professionals, *THE COLLECTOR* is well worth your time and money. You can order copies at $1.00 per issue from Bill G. Wilson, 1535 Oneida Drive, Clairton, Pa. 15025.

One of the finest looking and written fanzines produced today is Mike Barrier's *FUNNYWORLD*. Based primarily on funny animal comics and animation, the magazine also offers comic strips and a highly professional quality which is hard to top. Barrier's style of writing and editorial excellence are some of the best in all of fandom, and whether you are acquainted with, or interested in funny animals or animation, you are guaranteed to enjoy *FUNNYWORLD*. Issues can be ordered at $1.25 per copy from Mike Barrier, Box 5229 Brady Station, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205.

Fanzines can be fun, especially if you accept them as an added benefit to comic collecting. You're one of us now, FOOM follower, and we are all here to enjoy.

Would you know a Foom if you saw one?

Foom is No. 11


Hey, FOOM followers—this is NICK FURY, Agent of SHIELD. You've probably seen me pull on a dozen different disguises during my encounters with Hydra, AIM, Scorpio, Yellow Claw! Bet ya been wonderin' how you'd do it if you were in my shoes! Well, here's your chance to become a MASTER OF DISGUISE in the deadly world of super spies and double agents! Grab a pencil or pen an' try your hand at confusin' the enemy by disguising the above six mug shots of your favorite howler! Try usin' sunglasses, beards, mustaches, pipes, cigars, hats, scars, long hair, bandanas, wigs, scarves, eye-patches! Use your imagination, anything goes! Who knows? We may have an opening at SHIELD!

The Zombie walks in Marvel's third black and white magazine on sale in April

A few years ago, before NOT BRAND ECHH and SPOOF hit the stands, Rascally Roy Thomas, Len Brown, Gil Kane and Wally Wood decided to collaborate on a great new series based on the Marvel characters— but instead, they did this! Seriously, folks— we think you'll get as big a kick out of them as the guys did creating them! They called the first one, the ....

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Fantastic Fear

How's your Foom?

THE FANTASTIC FEAR ARE WALK'NG, AS USUAL, THROUGH THE STREET! OF THEIR BELOVED NEW YORK CITY....
HEY, THANGAMABOB, HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW THE CRIME BUSINESS IS SLACK-ING OFF LATELY?
YEAH! I'M GETTIN' SOFT AND FLABBY FROM DOIN' NOTHING!
AS A MATTER OF FACT, SO HAVE I, FUMIN' SCORCH!
ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT CITY FIRES...!!
ME TOO, BELOVED HUSBAND!
BUT LOOK, THERE'S A MASKED ROBBER!
4

WAS A ROBBER YOU MEAN! THAW'S MAM-MER GOT HIM BEFORE I COULD REACH HIM!
HEY...WATCH IT, INVISIBLE PEARL! I STUMBLED OVER YOU AGAIN!
IT'S CLOD-HOPPIN' TIME!
SORRY, DEAR HUBBY!
4

IT'S RIDICULOUS! NO WONDER BUSINESS IS SO BAD! THE SKY'S FULL OF .. MARVELOUS SUPER-HEROES!
YOU SAID IT, MY DARLING SPOUSE!
4
YEAH! AFTER ALL, IT WAS US WHO STARTED THE WHOLE THING!

HEY! WHILE YOU GUYS ARE CRYING, WOULD YOU MIND TWINING YOURSELF AROUND SOMEBODY ELSE?
IT'S ELASTIC MAN! ARE THE DEF-SEE SUPER-HEROES MOV-ING TO NEW YORK TOO?
YEEESH! THAT'S THE LAST STRAW, MR. FEARFUL!
YEAH!
4
WE TAWNY

C'MON, ALL OF YA! WE'RE GONNA DO THE ONLY THING SELF-RESPECTIN' SUPER-HEROES CAN DO WHEN THEY'RE INVADED!
RIGHT! WE'LL SHOW THOSE GUYS JUST WHAT KIND OF HEROES WE ARE!
YEAH!
4
TOOM!
WE SURE WILL, BETTER HALF!

AND SO, HOURS LATER, WE FIND THE FANTASTIC FEAR IN FULL OPERATION... IN A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT LOCALE...
THERE! I GUESS ME SHOWED 'EM!
I GOTTA HAND IT TO YA! THIS IDEA OF MOVIN' TO BERMUDA IS THE BEST ONE YOU EVER HAD!
YEAH! TOO MANY OTHER SUPER-HEROES IN NEW YORK!
THAT'S MY HUBBY
4

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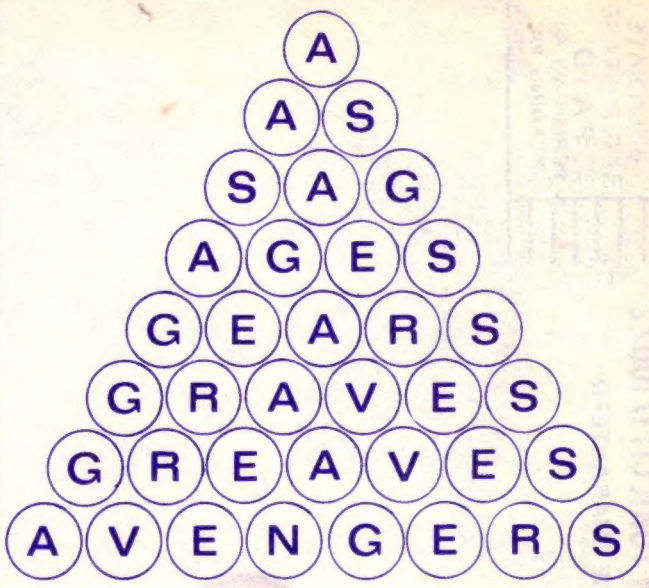

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M						
L						
XL						

name

address

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